

ORNAMENTAL FRUIT TREES--JAPANESE BARBERRY IS SAFE

Strange as it may seem to some readers, exhortations to make war gardens are quite as much at farmers as at amateur city gardeners. Many farms have no home gardens, and as a result the farmer's family goes without fresh vegetables and fruits. The first thing a farmer should do is to prepare a home garden. The first thing a farmer should do is to prepare a home garden. The first thing a farmer should do is to prepare a home garden.

The vegetable garden should supply fresh vegetables, beginning with radishes, lettuce and onions, then, cabbage, cauliflower, beans, turnips, parsnips, carrots and so on later and for use all winter.

If suggesting and urging would

RE MOVE-ABLE STEEL



Protect the Song Birds

Without the song birds all of our food crops would be destroyed by insects. They have millions of eggs in the soil, and they will hatch and destroy your crops. It is your duty to protect them and to keep them from being destroyed. There is just the right kind of a

Dodson Bird House

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Don't Wait—Order Now

Many birds are suspicious of houses that are made of wood. Get your house up so they will be ready for the birds when they start looking for a nesting place. Then you will be sure to have a lot of birds in your garden.

JOSEPH H. DODSON,

President American Audubon Association, 115 Harrison Avenue, Kansas City, Mo. Dodson's Sparrow Trap, the only real commercial trap, is used by every community of bird lovers. It is made of wire and is easy to set. It is the only trap that will catch birds without hurting them.

Price 6c.

take care of the surplus crops produced what might be called waste would be prevented. How, pray tell, are the holders of surplus potatoes going to dry them for making flour or to make starch or alcohol from them, as recommended by the advisory committee of agriculture, consisting of twenty-three members from all parts of the United States, in consultation in Washington for a week with the Department of Agriculture and the Food Administration?

If the law permitted farmers to make alcohol this might be done with surplus potatoes, as farmers then would have the apparatus to do it with. Unless the Government is instrumental in seeing that plants are built for drying potatoes and making potato flour it will probably be a long time before this is done. Recommendations alone will never build factories. If some of the money spent by the Agricultural Department in past years for useless things, such, for example, as the free distribution of seeds by Congress, a matter of, say, \$250,000 a year, five good potato flour plants might have been built each year, and just now these would be a source of great benefit to the people. The plants could be leased to operators or sold on terms sufficiently favorable to induce local operators to take them over.

The Agricultural Department is not responsible for the free seed distribution which is forced upon it by Congressmen, who evidently feel that their records are not sufficient to warrant their reelection, and try to buy votes for themselves with a few packages of poor seeds.

The indications are, according to reports, that the peach crop in Delaware will be above the average this year.

Lawn mowers should be thoroughly overhauled before they are used. Get out all the old grass and dirt and wash the bearings with kerosene oil. Clean the knife blades and the wiper bars. Oil all bearings well and carefully adjust so the wiper bars pass over the knife bar just touching and no more.

The mower should be cleaned after using and before it is put away for the next mowing. Always oil before using.

Cut out all deadwood from blackberry and raspberry bushes if they have not been done. Burn the brush.

ORNAMENTAL FRUIT TREES.

By E. I. FARRINGTON.

It seems rather strange that larger use is not made in this country of the flowering cherry and crabapple trees. Several kinds are fully equal to any of the shrubs commonly grown. It is only necessary to visit the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, near Boston, at this season of the year to realize the beauty of the cherries and

the crabs when used for ornamental purposes. Everybody knows that in Japan the cherry blooming season is made an occasion for a general holiday, when thousands of people pour out into the country to see the flowers. In some places long avenues have been lined with cherry trees, making a wonderful picture when the flowers open. Of course there is no such show in the Arboretum because the amount of room which can be devoted to these trees is limited. Still, almost every variety suitable to this climate is being grown in the Arboretum grounds. Certainly there is no better place to study the different varieties and to note their advantages and failings.

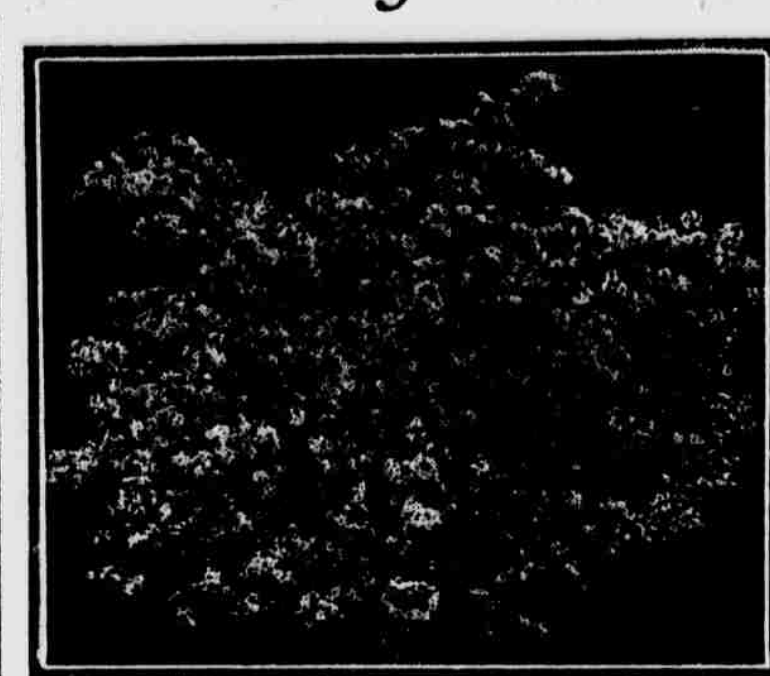
With the aid of the Arboretum, Rochester, N. Y., is making the biggest plantation of ornamental cherries in this country. Eventually several acres will be given over to these flowers, and when the trees are large enough to bloom the display will be one of the finest in the world.

The most beautiful cherry tree in the Arboretum collection this season is the one called both *Prunus serrulata* and *Prunus sargentii*. This tree is now twenty-three years old and has assumed noble proportions. Probably it is the handsomest of all the Japanese cherries, because the blossoms being two inches in diameter, it is a fast growing tree and in its native land is used for timber purposes. Few trees are more enduring, many of those found in Japan being fully two centuries old.

Another Japanese tree which makes a fine showing in the Arboretum is *Prunus subhirtella*. It is really a low branched shrub rather than a tree, and is planted very generally in parts of Japan. It is rare in European collections though, because it does not reproduce itself from seed. The plants in the Arboretum have been growing since 1874, and when covered with their drooping pink flowers are wonderfully beautiful. These flowers remain in good condition longer than those of any other single flowered cherry tree.

The flowering crabs come along a little later, but are quite as beautiful as the cherries. These crabs are especially good for specimens in American gardens. Prof. Sargent, director of the Arboretum, advocates their common use. Probably the best known and the most generally cultivated crabapple in this country is *Malus baccata*. It has a low, spreading, round topped bush with wide spreading branches. The flowers are red as they open, but gradually turn almost white. This is one of the most satisfactory plants, judging from the Arboretum's experience with it, that can be planted in the northeastern part of the country. It has never yet been injured by cold, heat or drought and never fails to produce its flowers every spring.

A hybrid has appeared spontaneously in the Arboretum, for which reason it has been called *Malus arbutifolia*. It has the low branching habit of *Malus baccata*, but the flowers and fruit are more than one-third larger. This is one of the finest



The beautiful Sargent Crab Apple.

of all the crabapples. Other good varieties are *Parkmannii*, a double flowered form of the Chinese tree called *Malus*, and never fails to produce fruit. With the aid of the Arboretum, named for Prof. Sargent, who introduced it from northern Japan, has pure white flowers and scarlet fruit which remain on the branches until spring.

All these crabs are exceedingly handsome, perfectly easy to grow, and well worth a place in private and public gardens everywhere.

FLOWER EXHIBITION.

The Horticultural Society of New York will hold a flower exhibition at the Museum Building, New York Botanical Gardens, next Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12. The exhibition will be opened on Saturday from 2 P. M. to 5 P. M., and on Sunday from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

The annual meeting of the society will be held in the Museum Building Saturday, May 11, at 3:30 P. M.

DO NOT TRUST GOVERNMENT SEEDS.

The New York State College of Agriculture says it is not wise to depend on seeds furnished by the Government, since the seeds are presumably of little known varieties to be planted for experimental purposes. Thus they may be of a kind not desirable for the home garden. Further, the amount of seed in each package is small. The college believes, therefore, that the home gardener will do well to purchase from a reliable seed house.

A STATE SPELLING BEE.

A spelling bee is to be held at the

New York State Fair at Syracuse next autumn. The best spellers will be selected from over 10,000 schools and sent to the State Fair to represent their localities in the contest. The Governor, Commissioner of Education and County Superintendents will be there to award the honors to the winner.

Get lettuce, radishes, parsley, peas, spinach and potatoes in as soon as possible for large and early yields.

Help defeat Kultur with horticulture. Make a garden and make it a good garden.

SAVE THE BIRDS.

Joseph H. Dodson says: "I love birds. Birds have made my life happier, and I want them to exert the same inspiring influence on others as they have on me. Make friends with our native birds. Many who have only a little patch of a city garden have induced song birds to live with them. The blessed little birds make no distinction between rich and poor. In Evanston (a suburb of Chicago) for a number of years there was a penalty attached to the killing of squirrels. We learned, to our sorrow, that the squirrels were destroying our birds' nests and were causing song birds to leave us. I caused this law protecting squirrels to be repealed and we soon noticed the increase in the number of our song birds. We know that the birds are worth more than the squirrels."

Song birds and other wild birds save millions of dollars annually by destroying multitudes of insects that destroy crops and trees. No one really knows the total damage done to crops by insects, added to which must be figured the total cost of spraying to destroy insects. Some have set the figure as high as \$500,000,000 yearly for crops in this country destroyed by insects, including fruit, vegetables, grain, flowers and timber. Add to this the cost of all the spray pumps manufactured, all the spray materials used, all the labor spent in spraying and the cost of transportation, and it will increase this figure greatly.

If our native wild birds can be increased the damage by insects will decrease in like ratio.

Bones contain a large percentage of lime and phosphorus, but as they decompose slowly should be ground finely if they are used as a fertilizer. Bone meal is lasting in its effect. Apply three ounces per square yard.

Bone superphosphate is the product of bones treated with sulphuric acid, and it is more soluble and quicker acting than bone meal. Apply at same rate as bone meal.

LIME FOR VEGETABLES.

An outstanding feature of the preparations now being made for vegetable production is the more general use of lime. This material is especially beneficial when it is applied broadcast in moderate amounts on plowed soil. By harrowing it into the soil at once the dustlike particles will not have an opportunity to collect and form hard lumps which would be slow to act. Some quick growing vegetables are especially responsive to applications of lime on sour soil. The application of lime is recommended on sour soil when the following lime loving vegetables are to be planted: Beets, cabbage, cantaloupes, celery, cucumbers, eggplants, lettuce, onions, peppers, spinach, sweet corn, sweet potatoes and avoirdupois chard. Many other vegetables are helped by lime, but these are considered to be the most responsive. A circular on "Lime and Its Application" may be obtained free from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick.

PROTECT GARDEN FROM INSECT ENEMIES.

Directions for the control of the most common insects and diseases of the home vegetable garden are given in Farmers Bulletin 532, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, under the title, "Control of Diseases and Insect Enemies of the Home Vegetable Garden." The bulletin may be obtained free on application to the Division of Publications of the Department.

Preventive measures are best. Rotate crops. Avoid introducing insects and diseases on plants obtained from setting out. Practice clean cultivation. Employ fertilizers to stimulate

plant growth. Work on the principle that a vigorous growing garden will produce a crop in spite of injurious insects and diseases. Become familiar with the insects and diseases known to occur in the neighborhood. Equip in advance with all necessary remedies and the means of applying them. Remember that the timely application of a remedy acts as an insurance against loss.

Watch constantly for the first appearance of a disease or insect. Inspect the garden at least every other day. Determine what is causing injury and apply the proper treatment promptly. Use the combination treatments in case a complication of troubles is present. Repeat treatments as often as necessary, keeping in mind the influence of weather conditions as well as the life history of the insect or fungus causing the disease.

Use insecticides and fungicides in the proper dilution to accomplish the object without injuring the plants. Standard remedies are best. Test others experimentally before using them on a large scale.

Use the best sprayers. A thorough application is necessary for the best results. Adjust the sprayer so that all parts of the plant that are exposed to the air will be covered.

Work for cooperation in the neighborhood. One badly infected or insected garden may be the source of disease infection or insect infestation for several nearby gardens. Every garden should be kept clean, an object lesson for careless neighbors. This will make control easier and cheaper another year.

Beekkeeping is profitable. Why neglect this source of income?

Enlist all the tomato cans! Use them to grow tomato plants for transplanting.

New York State has appropriated \$20,000 to meet the State expenses at the National Milk and Dairy Farm Exposition to be held in the Grand Central Palace the week of May 20. The committee on exhibits is headed by President Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell University and on the committee with him are well known men, agricultural experts, men prominent in milk distribution and manufacture and manufacturers of dairy appliances and machinery.

SLIPS FROM HYDRANGEAS.

It is difficult to get new plants from the common rambling, snowball and hydrangea, but it may be done by bending the blossoming branches to the ground, burying the blossom and weighting it down so the wind will not blow it out.

To keep bugs away bend an eighteen inch square of wire mesh the shape of a square box and invert it over cucumber plants just coming through the ground, covering the edges well with dirt. No bugs can get in to harm the young plants and by the time the cucumbers have outgrown the box they will be strong enough to resist the insects. The frames can then be stored away for another year.

Mrs. J. J. O'CONNELL,

Washington, D. C.

WARNING AGAINST OUTBREAK OF TUSOCK MOTH CATERPILLARS.

The entomologist of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station has issued a warning against an outbreak of the tussock moth caterpillar, a pest especially destructive to the foliage of shade trees. The eggs are now on the trees or on adjacent structures, in flat white or grayish masses, each about a half inch wide and three-quarters of an inch long. Seventy towns in the State have been visited by the entomologist and his assistants, and eggs found in such abundance as to make action necessary. The following localities are so infested as to demand prompt attention: Arlington, Atlantic City, Bloomfield, Burlington, Camden, Elizabeth, Glassboro, Gloucester, Guttenberg, Hackensack, Irvington, Jersey City, Kearny, Little Falls, Newark, New Durham, North Bergen, Paterson, Pompton Lakes, Rahway, Rutherford, Trenton, Union Hill, Weehawken, West Hoboken and West New York.

The caterpillars may be expected to hatch in May, and to begin their work on the foliage of shade trees. When fully grown the caterpillars have a bright red head, long pencils of hair from the back. The general color is yellow with a black stripe on the back. When possible the egg masses should be gathered and burned before May 1. It is suggested that boys and girls in each community be set to work to save the trees from the threatened attack. If this is not practicable the foliage should be thoroughly sprayed or dusted with arsenate of lead as soon as the caterpillars appear and before they have reached a large size. The arsenate of lead spray should be prepared at the rate of 1 ounce of the powder or 2 ounces of the paste to 1 gallon of water.

Those who took the advice given in this department last autumn now have a good big pile of leaves piled up or barrels of leaves stored away that are well dried out and fairly well decayed. This leaf mould spread thickly over the garden and turned under makes rich, porous soil that holds the moisture well and still it insures good drainage. Cover the garden this way every spring and work the soil deeply so that it is rich and loose down to a depth of two feet, and only half the area usually required will be needed to supply the family table, and the specimens produced will be very much finer in appearance and quality. The same will be true where the beds are covered for flowers.

After the leaves have been turned under spread hydrated lime liberally over the surface to counteract the acidity of the leaves and rake the lime in with a steel rake. It is wonderful how light and rich this treatment will make heavy clay soil, and it will improve light sandy soil equally as well.

Good Fertilizer Free. Perhaps it is not too early to say to gardeners that the leaves that fall from the trees in autumn are a valuable source of organic or vegetable matter or humus which the soil requires to make it fertile. When fertilizers and food were abundant and cheap this valuable fertilizer was permitted to go to waste generally every-

where in this country. Now that food and fertilizers are scarce leaves may be had for no cost other than the trouble of gathering them. They can be stored in old apple barrels, stamping the leaves down until the barrel is packed solid. Piles of leaves made in the back yard can be kept in place by throwing a little earth over the pile, and by spring the pile will be in good shape to turn under in the garden.

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den. Then adding a little lime as described above but little of any other fertilizer will be required.

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HARDY LILIES

ATRAJUM—the gold-banded Lily of Japan, each \$1.00; SPECIOSUM—White or red-veined large bulbs, each \$1.00; and 30c.

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Extra large California Privets, 3 to 4 ft. high, 15c each.

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Garden Combination, 50c. 12 packages vegetable seeds. 12 packages flower seeds. 6 canna bulbs, 25 gladioli bulbs, 1 package fertilizer.

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